Protection of Southern Indian Peninsula

1986. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a recent assessment, the Southern Indian Peninsula was found to be inadequately protected and needed more air bases both for offensive and defensive operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been chalked out to provide more air bases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Southern Air Command of the Indian Air Force and the Naval bases in the South have the requisite facilities, located strategically within the Southern Peninsula, to carry out all necessary operational tasks.

(c) and (d) Modernisation and further development of infrastructure are a continuous process.

Reduction in compulsory levy on Sugar

1987. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reduced the compulsory levy on sugar from 40 per cent to 15 per cent of its production and are committed to complete decontrol of sugar in a phased manner besides introducing its forward/future trading;

(b) in view of the fact that price of the sugar in the open market is soaring, whether Government are aware that the poor people can not afford to purchase sugar from the open market; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for taking the aforesaid decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Government has decided